

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

AN UNRECOGNIZED POCKET GOPHER FROM
WISCONSIN

BY HARTLEY H. T. JACKSON

The taxonomic relationships of Wisconsin members of the pocket gopher genus *Geomys* have been problematic. In recent studies I have had available 112 specimens that represent fairly well the known distribution of the genus in the state. These specimens are in the following collections: U. S. Biological Survey, 21; Milwaukee Public Museum, 14; University of Wisconsin Zoological Collection, 8; University of Illinois Museum of Natural History, 69. For their courtesy, aid, and the loan of specimens for this study I am indebted to Dr. W. C. McKern, Milwaukee; Dr. John T. Emlen, Jr., Madison; and Dr. Donald F. Hoffmeister, Urbana.

The exact type-locality of *Geomys bursarius bursarius* (Shaw) is unknown, but is now usually considered as near Elk River, Sherburne County, Minnesota. In the original description the specimen is said to have come from the fur trade of the Northwest Territories and to be unavailable at the time and in the possession of "Governor Prescott" (George Shaw, Trans. Linnaean Soc. London, vol. 5, p. 227, 1800). It could conceivably have come from northwestern Wisconsin which probably pocket gophers and certainly fur traders inhabited at that early day. As a basis of comparison of *Geomys b. bursarius*, however, I have used a series of 40 specimens from Elk River, Minnesota, in the U. S. Biological Survey and U. S. National Museum collections. The Wisconsin range of the subspecies *bursarius* as determined by the present studies is confined to the east side of the Saint Croix River drainage, and to the headwater drainages of the Brule and Iron rivers, which flow into Lake Superior. It ranges northward to within about 12 miles of Lake Superior. The Mississippi River watershed from the Chippewa River drainage south of latitude 45° 30' N to the north bank of the lower Wisconsin River, west of longitude 90° W, is inhabited by a race heretofore unrecognized.

Geomys bursarius wisconsinensis, subsp. nov.
Wisconsin Pocket Gopher

Type-specimen.—No. 243,055, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey collection; adult ♀, skin and skull; collected September 13, 1922, by Hartley H. T. Jackson. Original number 1604.

Type-locality.—Lone Rock, Richland County, Wisconsin.

Diagnostic characters.—Similar in size, color, and superficial appearance to *Geomys bursarius bursarius*. Clearly separable by certain cranial characters. The premaxilla in *wisconsinensis* in superior view is narrower and somewhat concave posteriorly, whereas in the subspecies *bursarius* it is nearly flat or slightly convex posteriorly. The rostrum is somewhat narrower than in *G. b. bursarius*. Premaxilla distinctly and evenly incurved laterally anterior to premaxillary root of zygoma, whereas in *G. b. bursarius* the edge of premaxilla is nearly straight anterior to root of zygoma. Inner borders of premaxillae diverging posteriorly and thus widening the distance between their posterior tips. The most conspicuous difference between the two subspecies results from this wider space between the posterior ends of the premaxillae and is reflected in the broader anterior lobe of the frontal, which is about as broad as long in *wisconsinensis*, whereas in *G. b. bursarius* it is only about one-half as broad as long.

Measurements.—Type-specimen (adult ♀): Total length, 246 mm; tail vertebrae, 73; hind foot, 32. Skull: Type-specimen (adult ♀): Greatest skull length, 44.5 mm.; zygomatic breadth, 25.5; interorbital breadth, 6.9; maxillary tooth row, 8.0.